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Agenda item 85 (c)
Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Qatar* and Mexico: draft resolution

International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999, 55/197 of 20 December 2000, 56/194 of 21 December 2001 and 57/255 of 20 December 2002 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

Noting that the El Niño phenomenon has a recurring character and that it can lead to extensive natural hazards with the potential seriously to affect humankind,

Reaffirming the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters that result from the El Niño phenomenon,

Noting that technological developments and international cooperation have enhanced the capabilities for the prediction of the El Niño phenomenon and thereby the potential for the preventive actions that may be taken to reduce its negative impacts,

Taking into account the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[1] in particular paragraph 37 (i) thereof,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex

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1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[2] in particular the section entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon";

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Ecuador, the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction which led to the establishment of the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and to its opening in February 2003, and encourages those parties to continue their efforts for the advancement of the Centre;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the international community to adopt the necessary measures to support the development of the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

4. *Underscores* the importance of maintaining a suitable observation system, continuing research into extreme weather events, improving forecasting skills and developing appropriate policies for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and other extreme weather events and emphasizes the need to develop and strengthen these institutional capacities in developing countries;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

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[2] A/59/228.